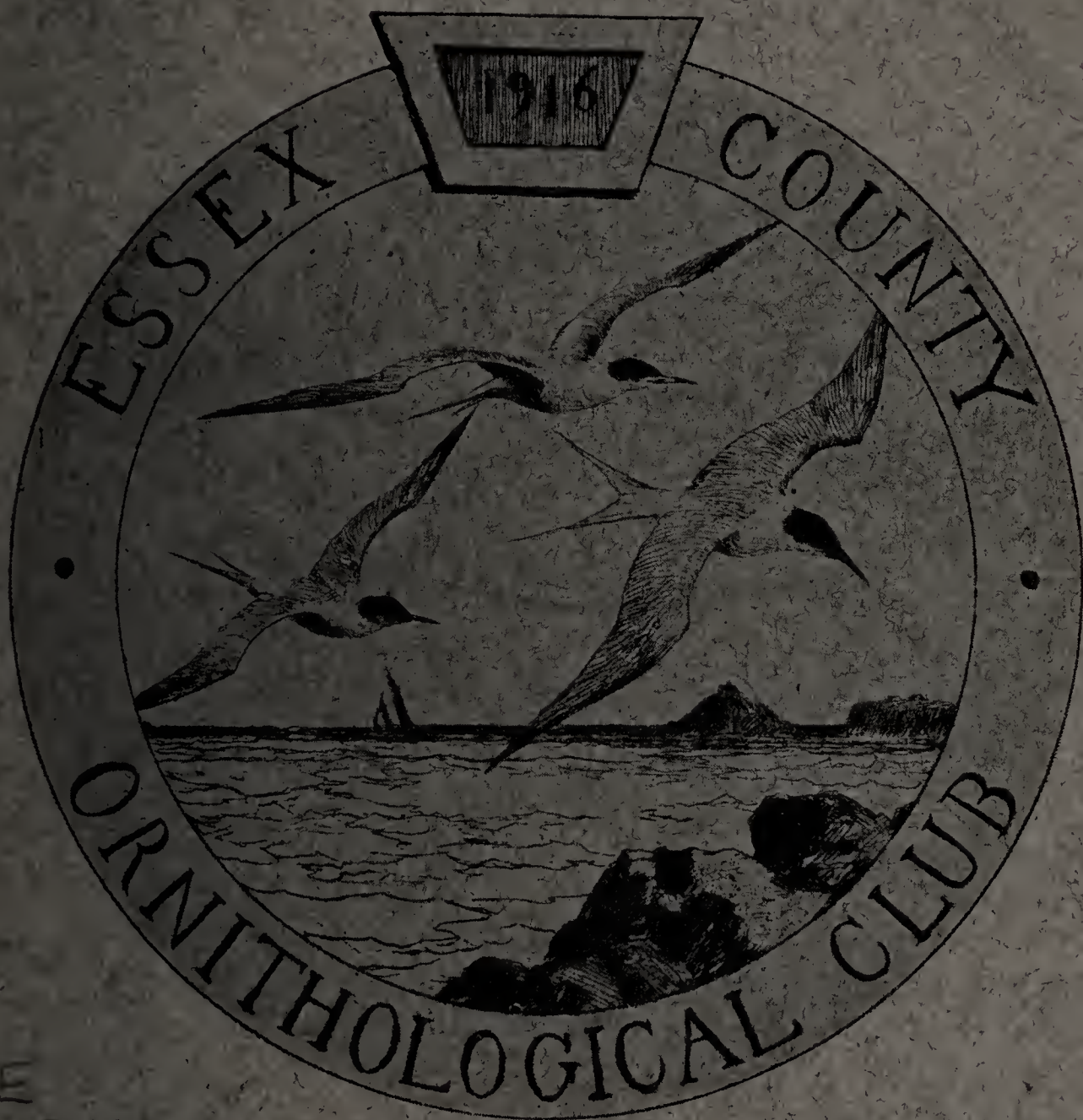


BULLETIN

OF THE



1922

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BULLETIN

OF THE

Essex County Ornithological Club

OF

Massachusetts



1922

FIFTY CENTS

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BY THE

ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS

Salem, - Massachusetts

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1922

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BULLETIN
OF THE
ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.

ISSUED ANNUALLY.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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DECEMBER, 1922	SALEM, MASS.	VOLUME IV, No. 1
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FOREWORD

The past year has been one of accomplishment, possibly not of all we had planned, but enough to be gratifying. Enthusiasm and club spirit have not waned, our membership has continued at the maximum limit, and attendance at scheduled meetings has been large. The communications and papers have been of exceptional interest and educational value.

The regular club trips have been held successfully, but a number of special field meetings planned at the beginning of the year did not materialize. This has been largely due to business pressure on the bulk of our membership during the period of industrial readjustment.

Unusual weather conditions interfered with the seasonal movement of many birds, resulting in comparatively poor lists of land birds, but seeming to favor the stay with us in season, and in some cases out of season, of many water birds.

During the past year the Editor of the Salem Evening News, a daily paper of wide circulation in the county, requested us to furnish him, for publication, the lists of birds reported at each regular meeting, together with items of

general interest. This work has been undertaken in an effort to encourage bird study and possibly increase our sources of information as to bird movement in our territory. The response to these articles has been so gratifying that it is proposed to extend the plan to other papers in the county.

The club check list, originally published in 1921, was thoroughly revised, brought up to date, and reissued in a much more practical and attractive form.

In preparing the present Bulletin we have been seriously confronted with the problem which has apparently beset the Editors of similar publications from their inception. This is the question of a standard by which to accept or reject what may best be termed, unlikely observations.

Study of the policy of our contemporaries and of recent writings of prominent ornithologists has helped, but has not resulted in a hard and fast rule by which we may proceed. The continual inconsistency of finding primal "sight" records in publications having an avowed policy calling for the bird in hand, does not tend to clarify the situation. In the last analysis the usual questions seem to be: "Who made the record?" "Is the bird readily identified from published descriptions?" or, "Is the observer familiar with the bird?" rather than, "Was the specimen taken?"

In the particular case of this Bulletin, we are working in two related but somewhat distinct fields, that of ornithological interest and that of statistical record. The first may allow some flexibility, the second certainly should not.

It is improbable that more than a small fraction of the unusual happenings are observed, and still fewer, of course, properly recorded. We shall therefore publish as matters of interest credible reports which may be unsupported by sufficient evidence for acceptance as records. In this way we hope to stimulate observers to be on the alert for strangers and to report such observations.

In this connection we cannot too strongly urge the making of full and complete notes at the time. The bird may be unmistakeable, but there are many cases where a comparatively small and obscure marking is all that distinguishes one species from another, and it is of the utmost importance

to have notes written at the time of observation, in order to eliminate all chance of error from faulty memory.

In the case of the club's statistical record for the county, which is published annually in the form of an Annotated List, the club will continue to require satisfactory proof of observation, not necessarily that of the gun, and will only sanction such records as have been carefully investigated, discussed and approved by the Club as a whole.

With this number the plan of issuing the Bulletin in December is abandoned, and hereafter it will appear as soon after December 31st as possible, and carry the designation of the year which it covers.



THE MUSIC OF THE GOLDEN-EYE.

(*Glaucionetta clangula americana.*)

CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D.

The sounds made by most birds are vocal in character, but some are instrumental and depend on wing or tail feathers or on other structures. A few birds produce both vocal and instrumental music. The Golden-eye is an example of the latter class, for this duck is able to produce not only vocal sounds which are of considerable interest, owing to the complicated structure of its vocal organs, but also sounds made with its wing feathers. From the latter, which are of a whistling character, it obtains its common name of "Whistler."

The human larynx, with its vocal cords situated at the upper end of the trachea or windpipe, is the source of the human voice, which is variously modified by the action of the tongue, lips and palate. In birds the larynx is devoid of vocal cords and produces no voice, although it is probable that the sounds produced lower down are modified by the approximation or separation of its rigid margins. The true voice in birds is produced in the syrinx, which is situated at the lower end of the trachea and at the adjoining bifurcation of the bronchi. The varied vocal sounds and songs of birds arise in this organ from the vibratory membranes which are acted upon by the syringeal muscles, of which singing birds or oscines have five or seven pairs. Various dilatations and loopings of the trachea assist in the making or modify the character of the sounds, but the tongue plays no part in the modulation of the voice, unless it be in the case of birds with large fleshy tongues, as in parrots. The slitting of the tongue, sometimes practiced in birds that are taught to talk, can be, therefore, of no possible aid. Photographs of birds in song do not show the tongue, which lies flat on the floor of the mouth and is not

elevated as is represented in the older portraits of singing birds. As the voice is not modified in the mouth, birds are able to sing with their bills full of insects.

In the Golden-eye Duck the trachea of the female is devoid of peculiarity, and the syrinx is simple and provided with one pair of muscles. In the male there is a large irregular fusiform swelling at the junction of the lower and middle third of the trachea made up of the enlarged tracheal rings. At the lower end, where the trachea splits into the two bronchi, there is a still larger swelling, variously known as the *labyrinth*, *tracheal tympanum*, or *bulba ossea*. This latter modification is found in the Mergansers and in many, but not all, fresh-water and diving ducks. It is believed to be a reverberatory chamber to increase the volume of sound, and, as it is only developed in the male, it is in the nature of a secondary sexual organ. Pycraft pertinently says: "It is curious that in the Mallard, for example, the males have but a low hoarse note, while the call of the female—which lacks this resonating chamber, if such it is—is loud."

With both a labyrinth and an enlargement of the trachea one would suppose that the male Golden-eye* would have a remarkable voice, but such does not seem to be the case, unless sounds are made that are inaudible to human ears.

Although the Golden-eye is a familiar duck, few ornithologists have heard it emit any vocal sounds. *Wilson*, who describes accurately both the upper swelling of the trachea and the labyrinth in the male, makes no mention of any voice. *Audubon* makes no mention of any voice. *Coues* is silent on the subject, as are also *Forbush* and *Rich*.

Nuttall says: "Although furnished with a remarkably complicated trachea in the male, and the name of *Clangula*, we cannot learn that they ever possess any audible voice."

Baird, *Brewer* and *Ridgeway* say: "Although generally a very silent bird, yet, just before it leaves for its breeding-places in the spring, the male has a rough croaking note; and this note may also be heard if, having fallen wounded to the ground, it is taken alive."

* Barrow's Golden-eye has a much smaller enlargement of the trachea, but its notes have not been described. Allan Brooks, who has described the courtship, does not mention any voice.

Sanford, in "The Waterfowl Family," tells of a bird with young; "When disturbed, the duck at once flew to the farther end of the pond, directing the young ones by a guttural note, which I have never at other times heard from the Golden-eye."

D. G. Elliott, in his "Wild Fowl of North America," says: "The Whistler is a silent bird, its wings generally providing all the noise it makes, but occasionally I have heard it utter a hoarse kind of croak, similar to that made by the Mergansers, but at no time anything resembling a quack."

My own experiences with the vocal sounds produced by the Golden-eye are as follows:

On a tributary of the Natashquan River in Labrador I came across a female Whistler with four young. The young uttered beseeching peeping notes and disappeared in the bushes by the riverside, and the mother, uttering loud rasping, croaking notes, led our canoe away. On another occasion, near the mouth of the St. Augustine River, in Labrador, a party of five young paid no attention to me until the mother appeared and gave a warning croak, which caused them to dive and swim away. These are the only vocal sounds I have heard from the female.

I have heard no call nor conversational notes of the male, but I am, however, very familiar with his courtship song, which may be heard on pleasant days, not only in the late winter and in the spring, but also in the autumn in connection with his curious courtship dance, both of which I have described in the "Auk," 1910, Vol. XXVII, pp. 177-181. It is a harsh and rasping double note, vibrating and searching in character, and may be expressed by the syllables *zzee-at*. On a calm day this note can be heard for half a mile over the still water, but if there is a breeze blowing and the waves are pounding on the beach, it is often inaudible at a hundred yards. So much for the vocal music of the male Golden-eye. Considering his elaborate vocal apparatus, it is disappointing to say the least. It reminds one of the fable of the mountain in labor.

The instrumental music made by the wings—the whistling of the Whistler—is familiar to all. In former days.

when the Back Bay Basin at Boston was a tidal estuary, Golden-eyes frequented it much more than they do now, and one could often hear from the city streets the whistle of their wings as they flew out at sunset or back in the early morning. The wing music, loud as the birds pass at close range, grows rapidly fainter, but can often be heard until the birds almost disappear in the distance. I have noticed a considerable difference in the loudness of this wing music at different times and have endeavored to separate the tones of male, female and young, and the difference in the season. Sometimes the whistling is very loud, at other times it is almost absent. As the birds are nearly always associated in groups of different sexes and ages, and as the conditions of audibility vary with the wind and weather, I have been unable to come to definite conclusions, but I am inclined to believe that the wing music of the males is louder than that of the females and that it is heard at its best in the spring.

Mahoff* has made an interesting study of the wing music of the European Golden-eye, which bird differs from the American sub-species only in being slightly smaller. He has recorded a number of careful observations of the "flight-tone" in this species and finds that the whistling is loudest in adult males. In adult females and young males the whistling is either absent or only half as loud as in the adult males, and he records one case of a male in eclipse plumage where the sounds were faint like those of the female. The mechanism of this instrumental music he attributes mainly to the narrowing of the barbs at the ends of the first two primaries, a condition that is found only in the males. He believes that this wing music adds to the community life of Golden-eyes, who are thus able to signal and keep in touch with each other, and that it plays no role in courtship.

Can it not be the case that this whistling was originally developed in courtship, as suggested by the secondary sexual specialization of the wings, and that it is now used, as Mahoff points out, for signalling?

* "Zum Schwingengeräusch der Schelleute (*Glaucionetta c. Clangula* L.)," published in "Verhandlungen der Ornithologischen Gesellschaft in Bayern," XIII, Heft. 4, Nov. 25, 1919.

THE SO-CALLED SUICIDE OF WOUNDED WATER BIRDS.

EDWARD HOWE FORBUSH.

All gunners who have had much experience in hunting waterfowl know that wounded birds very often dive or disappear under water and are not seen again. However, if a hunt is made later, with a dog, the wounded birds usually will be found concealed along the shore in the grass, weeds or underbrush. Sometimes they disappear for a time and later float to the surface dead and drift to a lee shore; but frequently they vanish and are never seen again. Sometimes unwounded ducks disappear. Mr. George B. Foster of Brookline, Mass., wrote me as follows, on January 25, 1922:

"Last spring I was walking along the Esplanade and had reached a point just above Harvard Bridge where Muddy River empties into the Charles, when I saw three ducks alight in the Charles River about one hundred yards from where I was standing. Two of them immediately dived, and in a minute or two one of them appeared on the surface. I waited ten minutes, I should say, to see the other one come up, but he did not appear. The water was perfectly still and I could see in every direction for a long distance."

There are various ways of accounting for the disappearance of birds that are never found. At times the disappearance of both wounded and unwounded birds may be accounted for by sub-surface enemies. Many birds are pulled down by large turtles. Snapping-turtles have been known not only to catch many ducklings but also full-grown ducks. At the Game Farm of the American Game Protective Association at Carver, Mass., a large turtle caught a Canada Goose. The bird escaped, but left a leg in the turtle's jaws.

Many birds are caught on or under water by fish. I have seen a large pickerel dart at the feet of a swimming Pied-billed Grebe. The Grebe eluded the fish's rush by springing into the air and shooting along the surface of the water. The bird saw the approach of the fish, which came from the front, but he might not have seen it had it come from the rear. Occasionally Dovekies, Murres or ducks are taken with a part of a foot or one leg missing. In some of these cases the appearance of the limb indicates that it was mangled by a fish. Young ducks frequently are swallowed by fish.

The late George A. Boardman of Calais, Maine, made the following statement:

"Fifty years ago we used to have six different tree ducks breeding on our river: Barrow's Golden-eye and the Buffle-head (*albeola*) rare, but the common Golden-eye, the American Merganser, Hooded Merganser and Wood Duck abundant. About fifty years ago pickerel were put into our waters, which soon put an end to most of our wild ducks breeding, as the pickerel ate up all the chick ducks except in the few lakes or ponds that were free from pickerel. Near to Calais are several ponds and lakes that are free from those fish, and the tree ducks bring their young to those lakes for safety."¹

Mr. William D. Mershon of Saginaw, Mich., writes that he opened a trout weighing two and one-half pounds which had a duckling inside it. No doubt ducks are often caught by large fish, such as sharks, dogfish and goose-fish. Dr. R. S. Newton of Westborough, Mass., tells me that two years ago at Katama Beach, Martha's Vineyard, he shot a goosefish about three feet long which came toward him in the shallows. He drew the fish out upon the beach. Later a friend called his attention to the fact that the crows had pecked a hole in the stomach of this fish, and on examining the hole he saw a Scaup Duck's bill protruding. He opened the fish and found the entire bird in the stomach.

Mr. G. Dallas Hanna, of the University of California, writes that he has taken freshly swallowed Crested Auklets

¹ Forest and Stream, Vol. 52 (May 6, 1899), p. 346.

from the stomachs of codfish which were caught on the bottom.²

Doubtless fish secure some crippled birds which, weakened by wounds and unable to fly, have less chance to escape than vigorous unwounded birds.

Gunners know that wounded birds sometimes go to the bottom and push themselves into or under some vegetable growth or submerged brush and there die. It is likely that such birds become entangled and being wounded and weak are unable to extricate themselves, and so die from the effects of shot wounds or else drown. On the other hand many wounded birds cling to vegetation by means either of the feet or the bill and die, remaining there for a time before they come to the surface. In Department Bulletin No. 8, issued by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, I have presented sixteen cases where eye-witnesses saw birds under water clinging to vegetation with the bill. These birds were not entangled and were not dead. Also I have enumerated twenty-three cases reported to me by naturalists and sportsmen, where birds attached themselves to some under-water vegetation until death ensued. Birds that float to the surface soon after death evidently could not have been sufficiently entangled to prevent their escape when alive. Such birds must have stayed voluntarily under water until death relaxed their muscles and loosened their grip. Gunners often assert that birds have gone down and never come up; but there are many ways in which wounded birds will deceive the observer. Some can dive and swim a long distance under water, and occasionally come up to breathe without showing more than the bill above the surface. In rough water, or in the "path of the sun," this stratagem enables a bird to go far unobserved and finally to disappear in the distance or to get ashore under the cover of vegetation without being seen. Even if the water is perfectly smooth, no observer in a boat can watch all parts of the surface, and the bird may come up and expose its bill long enough to take breath, and go down unnoticed.

² Department Bulletin No. 8, Mass. Department of Agriculture, February, 1922, page 32.

Sometimes a wounded bird will come up under the stern of a boat to get air, or even will follow close behind, so that finally, when the attention of the gunner is attracted elsewhere, it will succeed in getting ashore unobserved.

There is some evidence to the effect that birds sometimes hide beneath the surface among water plants, and cling there with their feet, either being entirely submerged or showing only the bill above water. A bird may even cling by its feet and so remain submerged until death. Mr. B. J. Olson of Kearney, Neb., avers that he saw a Dipper or Water Ouzel which was shot on the Bitter Root River in Montana, "fly" about 100 feet under water and then die, clinging with its feet to rock moss in about a foot of water. Mr. Albert J. B. Kirn of Solomon, Kan., says that he found a wounded Pied-billed Grebe apparently clinging with its feet to weeds under water. The bill of the bird was below the surface. It was not clinging with its bill, as when he tried to take it, it pecked his hand. Mr. A. M. Brooking of Inland, Neb., says that he shot a duck which fell into an isolated bunch of rushes. After waiting about ten minutes he went to get the bird, but it was not in sight. He found it dead below the surface, grasping the base of a rush with both feet. Its body was in an upright position, with its head stretched up, but its bill was several inches under water. When dislodged it rose. On one or two occasions he has found ducks with the bill sticking out of water enough to get air. On being dislodged they would try to swim away.

It would seem at first sight that a duck, with its flat foot and its short hind toe, would have difficulty in grasping anything, but Mr. Willard E. Treat found one dead in a marsh, "grasping tightly" a reed with one foot; and we know that Wood Ducks and Tree Ducks easily perch on the limbs of trees and grasp them with their feet.

It is claimed that rails, like ducks, will dive and hold on either by feet or bill. Dr. B. H. Warren of West Chester, Pa., tells me that Clapper Rails when wounded are very expert in eluding pursuers by hiding below the surface of the water. Sometimes they will dive and hold to seaweed

or grass with either feet or bill, and he has pulled them from such places when they were under water at varying depths, from a few inches to more than an arm's length. He says also that rails, when crippled and hiding under water, often stick up the bill alongside of reeds, so that they can breathe and at the same time elude their enemies.

It seems probable that ducks, when hiding under water, usually grasp some object in the bill, as in diving the bill comes first in contact with something that will give a secure hold. A few clean-cut instances where this habit has been observed may be given here:

Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, asserts that when, as a boy, he followed a hunter who graciously allowed him to wade into the water to secure the dead fowls, a Green-winged Teal was shot and fell into a pond thickly grown with vegetation which came close to the surface. The moment the teal struck the water it disappeared. It was easy to determine the exact spot, so Mr. Pearson waded out and looked down into the water, where he saw the bird holding to the stem of a submerged plant. The tail pointed upward toward the surface. When the teal was lifted, the plant also came up, still tightly clasped in the bird's bill.

Mr. Frank T. Noble, the well-known naturalist of Augusta, Me., under the heading, "Why Wounded Ducks Disappear," reports a similar experience.³ A male Pintail Duck which he had winged, dived into the water and did not come up. After a search it was found in "scarcely three feet of water," clinging with its bill to the stem of a cowslip. Its body floated upward and its feet were outstretched. The bird was still alive and "it required some force to break him away from his queer anchorage."

Mr. Charles B. Morss, a well-known sportsman of Haverhill, Mass., writes, October 15, 1922, as follows: "I saw a Blue-winged Teal commit suicide this fall when wounded. Had the water been deeper I should have lost the bird altogether, but, as it was, half of the bird's extended tail showed

³ Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. VIII, No. 3, Sept., 1906, page 61.

above the water, which was just deep enough for it to dive into, grasp a weed and hang on. When I finally got to it and lifted it out, it plainly showed grass in the bill. A companion was dumbfounded at such an action and stated that he could never have brought himself to believe such a performance had he not witnessed it with his own eyes." Apparently in these cases there was no possibility of entanglement, as the birds were close to the surface and could be plainly seen.

Mr. John L. Cole of Nevada, Iowa, reports that in the case of a Mallard male which was shot and fell in about eighteen inches of water, the bird at once dived to the bottom. Grasping with its bill a large stem, it continued to cling for some time (perhaps for twenty minutes) after death. "I was standing in the water near the place where he fell," writes Mr. Cole, "and I did not see a movement of his body after I reached the place. I went at once to the place where he fell and watched him during this time. At the end of that period he released his hold and slowly came up. No movement was observed after he came to the surface. This one remained longest under water of any I have observed which clung to any object after being wounded."

Mr. Walter H. Miller of Laporte, Indiana, writes: "I have often pried Bluebills loose from the bottom by the use of an oar. They always cling to the weeds by their bills. I have on several occasions taken them off the weeds in shallow water with my hands."

The idea that wounded water birds sometimes commit suicide can no longer be classed with the tales of hibernating swallows and hoop-snakes, but no one has actually determined whether the birds have died of their wounds or of drowning. Although they may virtually commit suicide, self-murder is not actual except where the victim understands the meaning of death and has a suicidal intent. We can hardly credit a bird with such understanding or such deliberate intent. Its action seems a mere instinctive, if desperate, endeavor to escape from a pursuing enemy,—an endeavor which it may at times carry too far.

GAME AND SHORE BIRDS IN ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, 1922.

JOHN C. PHILLIPS.

It may be of some interest at this time, just at the close of the shooting season of 1922 in Essex County, to write a short review of its main peculiarities. In several respects it has been unusual. It followed a very wet summer, which began with some nine inches of rain in June, and continued wet until October. Moreover, the June floods extended far north and east, at least to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and perhaps further.

Take the shore birds first. There were very few lesser Yellow-legs on the marshes when the season opened. On August 16, a small flight had already passed along. On August 30 and 31 there was, however, quite a large flight of waders, which lasted over into early September. There were some Black-breasted and a few Golden Plover at this time. The flight of Winter Yellow-legs was small—the last was seen November 12.

The duck season opened with fewer Black Ducks than usual, both on the fresh marshes and along the shore. The local ducks did not breed as well as for several years past, in spite of high water and what might seem optimum conditions. Wood Ducks also were scarcer than for several seasons along the Ipswich River. There was no well-marked flight of Blue-winged Teal. I saw one near the Ipswich Poor Farm on August 11, an early record.

Snipe were late in arriving and found their usual grounds covered with water. A long hunt on September 16 failed to reveal a single one, and it was not until the night of September 24-25 that they paid a visit to this county. On the morning of September 25, after a heavy frost, I started fifteen or twenty birds. On the twenty-eighth there were a few snipe around and for several days following, but they

did not take to their usual haunts, although the water fell rapidly the first part of October. The last snipe at Wenham was seen on November 25. Virginia Rail were rather common this year.

The first or September flight of Black Ducks arrived September 24 and 25 and with them many Grebes.

All through October there was a steady but very small flight of ducks, and it was noticeable that the proportion of young birds was small. Even early in the season, when there should have been a great excess of young over old, there were more old than young. Ospreys did not pass here in anything like their usual numbers during late September and early October. The November flight of Black Ducks was scattering and small.

The first Lesser Scaup arrived on the afternoon of October 11, being just about on schedule time, in spite of the very hot unseasonable weather. There were few of them, however, all through the month. The most noteworthy occurrence at Wenham this season, was the appearance of a number of Ring-necked Ducks and the taking of twelve specimens, as follows: October 13, 20, 21 and 24. Red-Heads appeared on October 20, 21, and on the very unusually late date of November 24. Seventeen were taken in all. Two Canvas-backs were shot on October 27, one a very fine old male. No Widgeon, either American or European, were seen or taken this year. Throughout the whole season it is doubtful whether 25% as many Black Ducks were seen flying as last year, and no large flocks were noticed. The same condition held on the salt marshes, where old gunners told me they had seldom seen such a poor autumn.

Geese were even scarcer than ducks. A few were seen early in October, both here at Wenham and further east around Chebacco, but there has been a remarkably small flight; in fact, up to this time, December 1, no real flight anywhere in the county. Remarkably few geese have been seen at points south and east of Boston up to December 1, and one wonders what has happened to them.

Although this appears to have been a normal, if not better than normal year for Woodcock, we did not get our

share here. When the season opened on October 20, there were so few birds in our local covers that it seems more than likely there had already been a marked migration, perhaps somewhat earlier than usual. There is no evidence to show that our local breeding birds were any less plentiful than usual. Two big cocks occupied a small patch of corn in my garden nearly every morning for several weeks in August.

Grouse in Essex County were well below normal and did not breed well. There were few young birds. Undoubtedly this was a very disastrous nesting season all along the coast, although further north and west in New Hampshire grouse were plentiful. They were very abundant in the Maine woods also. It is unfortunate that our covers are now so easily hunted by the motorized sportsman that it is doubtful if we will ever again find as large a population of grouse as we have had in the past. The practical disappearance of the pheasant from the county has again turned the attention of many youthful gunners towards the grouse. Foxes also, which increased during the period when pheasants were abundant, and are now decreasing, may have had some effect.

To sum up, it is worth noting that many different sorts of game and water birds have suffered from a poor breeding season. Reports from Brant shooters in New Brunswick point to a very few birds of the year, while New England shore gunners noticed the same phenomena among the Scoters. Geese and Black Duck were noticeably affected and small numbers only have reached North Carolina. The great heat of the first half of October (in fact up to the middle of the month mosquitoes were active) did not seem to delay the movement of ducks, geese or woodcock.

The conditions of this year may be a sort of return to normal after the unusual abundance of Black Ducks and geese of the past few years.

THE IPSWICH RIVER BIRD TRIP.

RALPH LAWSON.

The sixteenth annual Ipswich River Bird Trip was made on May twentieth and twenty-first, nineteen hundred and twenty-two. Forty-five Club members and guests were in the party some time during the two days, and forty-one tented out at "The Pines" on Saturday night. Nearly ideal conditions of weather and temperature prevailed. Both days were clear and moderately warm, and although some wind was encountered on Saturday, the second day could not well have been improved upon. The season, after a somewhat late start, developed very rapidly during May, so that by the twentieth vegetation was well ahead of normal.

On Friday night, May nineteenth, several Club members slept at the Club Camp at Boxford, and early Saturday morning were joined by others at the Middleton Paper Mills, from which point the start in canoes was made at nine-thirty, daylight-saving time. Four canoes carried the morning party, which reached Howe Station shortly after noon. The next two hours were spent in and about Mr. Felt's camp, where luncheon was eaten, and as soon as the main party arrived, about two o'clock, the trip down stream was resumed. A short stop was made at the Club Camp, which was opened for the accommodation of any who did not care to tent out at "The Pines," but the weather was so fine that no one availed himself of this opportunity. The leading canoes arrived at "The Pines" about six o'clock, where tents and shelters were quickly erected. Supper was eaten about seven o'clock, and, after searching the island and adjacent region, the party gathered around the camp-fire, where stories were told, songs sung, and the day's list checked up. Two or three canoe parties explored the marshes after dark, and one or two late arrivals were picked up at the Valley Road Bridge in Topsfield, a mile or two above the camping ground.

The camp was astir before daylight, and Pine Island was searched for the migrant Warblers which, during the past years, have been found there in great numbers. Hot coffee was kept in readiness and breakfast was eaten as each member of the party found an opportunity, although reports of various birds observed in different parts of the Island, which were relayed into headquarters, caused many interruptions. Soon after eight o'clock Sunday morning, canoes began leaving "The Pines," and an hour later camp was deserted. Stops on the way down stream were frequent, but were made by little groups, and the party did not again assemble until one o'clock, when the usual luncheon spot was reached at Hemlock Bend, a mile or two above Ipswich. Goodhue's Landing in Ipswich was made an hour later, and here the canoes were left, the party walking through the town of Ipswich to the steamboat landing, where a large motor-boat was boarded and from which point the trip was resumed, this time on salt water. The motor-boat landed the party at Little Neck, where the river empties into Plum Island Sound and Ipswich Bay, and from there the journey was continued on foot back to Ipswich, by way of Clark's Pond and Plover Hill. Several members left the main party at Goodhue's Landing in Ipswich, and went by automobile to Ipswich Beach on the other side of the river and thence back to Clark's Pond.

The number of species observed, one hundred and eight in all, is the largest ever recorded, and in looking over the list we find that, although some of the migrant Warblers are missing, notably the Parula, which has been found on all of the previous trips, their absence is more than made up by a variety of shore birds which were evidently migrating in great numbers. The Red-throated Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Old Squaw, Dowitcher, Knot, Upland Plover and Ruddy Turnstone had never before been recorded on these trips, and the Common Tern and Great Crested Flycatcher had been noted but once previously. The Old Squaw seen was within one day of the latest date that this species has ever been found in Essex County. The scarcity of Rails and Marsh Wrens may be accounted for by the

recent high waters, as a fortnight previously the river had been at freshet pitch. A Rail note was heard from the Club Camp by the men who spent Friday night there, which was thought to have been the note of the Yellow Rail, and a Rail was heard by the Saturday morning party, which was probably a Sora, but as the identifications were not complete, these names do not appear on the official list.

It was rather peculiar to find that no one had observed or heard a Pine Warbler, but, as its absence was recorded in 1918, 1919 and 1920, it may be that this species is not as common as formerly. The Warbling Vireo, which had not been recorded up to five-thirty Sunday afternoon, was seen and heard in the same group of trees in the town of Ipswich in which a bird of this species has been found on many previous trips.

The following species were recorded:

Red-throated Loon	Black-bellied Plover
Herring Gull	Semi-palmated Plover
Common Tern	Piping Plover
Double-crested Cormorant	Ruddy Turnstone
Red-breasted Merganser	Ruffed Grouse
Black Duck	Ring-necked Pheasant
Wood Duck	Mourning Dove
Old-squaw	Marsh Hawk
Bittern	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Great Blue Heron	Red-shouldered Hawk
Black-crowned Night Heron	Broad-winged Hawk
Woodcock	Sparrow Hawk
Wilson's Snipe	Osprey
Dowitcher	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Knot	Black-billed Cuckoo
White-rumped Sandpiper	Belted Kingfisher
Least Sandpiper	Hairy Woodpecker
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Downy Woodpecker
Sanderling	Northern Flicker
Greater Yellow-legs	Whip-poor-will
Solitary Sandpiper	Night Hawk
Upland Plover	Chimney Swift
Spotted Sandpiper	Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Kingbird
Crested Flycatcher
Phoebe
Wood Pewee
Least Flycatcher
Blue Jay
Crow
Starling
Bobolink
Cowbird
Red-winged Blackbird
Meadowlark
Baltimore Oriole
Bronzed Grackle
Purple Finch
English Sparrow
Goldfinch
Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Towhee
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Scarlet Tanager
Purple Martin
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Tree Swallow

Bank Swallow
Cedar Waxwing
Red-eyed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Black and White Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Black-poll Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Ovenbird
Water-thrush
Maryland Yellow-throat
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
Redstart
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Long-billed Marsh Wren
Chickadee
Wood Thrush
Wilson's Thrush
Olive-backed Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Robin
Bluebird

THE BAY-BREASTED WARBLER ON MT. MONADNOCK, NEW HAMPSHIRE, IN SUMMER.

CHARLES L. WHITTLE.

On the southeast slope of Mt. Monadnock, at an elevation of approximately 1,450 feet, a male Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) was discovered July 17, 1921. The bird sang at short intervals from near the top of a large red spruce for several hours, with occasional more or less protracted intervals when he would fly to other parts of the grove or descend to a lower position where he rested and preened his feathers. He sang much of the time from a particular tree and from a particular perch on that tree, in fact having a "singing tree" and a singing perch. This perch was about five feet below the top of the tall spruce and close to the outer end of a small branch, where he would sit for several minutes at a time and devote himself exclusively to song. At other times he would investigate the upper part of the singing tree or neighboring trees for food, singing as he searched.

When first heard, his song was mistaken for that of a Black and White Warbler, although possessing less of the see-saw character than that bird's common song. Chapman, Warblers of North America, quotes Farwell as follows: "The Bay-breast's song is a poor, weak, saw-filing note." The song also suggested one of the variations of the Redstart's. The notes of the three songs appear to have about the same length, and they are sung rapidly with only a slight accent, and the duration of the longest variation did not much exceed two seconds.

Several hours were devoted by our party of four to a search for the female and the nest, but without success, and opportunity to continue our investigations did not occur again until July 29, when Mrs. Whittle and I revisited the spruces. As we entered the grove we heard about us the

songs of the Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, and the Black-throated Green Warblers, while a few hundred feet below the Hermit was still in song and a little above us we could hear the wonderful music of the Olive-backed Thrush. On approaching the singing-tree we found the Bay-breast still present and singing from near its top. Watching him carefully, we noted that he frequently flew away towards some deciduous woodland near by, and once chased away another small bird from the vicinity of his singing-tree. The search for the female again began, by posting ourselves among the deciduous trees where they joined the spruces, and it was not long before we saw the male chase the female into a small spruce close by, where she was readily identified. She had a very pretty way of standing facing and inspecting us, with her wings half spread and her body bent forward well below the horizontal. In a trice both birds disappeared, and the male was shortly heard singing again in his favorite tree. An hour afterwards we again located the female close by, industriously searching the branches of large yellow birches, from which she was gathering food. On two occasions she was seen with her mouth crowded with caterpillars, with which she flew away, and there is little doubt but that she took them to her young. Although we spent considerable time searching for the young birds, we were unable to find them. They were probably perched near the tops of the tall spruces, where their feeble calls for food were inaudible.

The following lines were taken from my notes made on our second visit:

"On the same tall spruce where we identified the male Bay-breast on July 17, we again found him singing his high-pitched, simple song, which, on account of its simplicity, shortness, weakness and distance from the ground (60 feet) may easily be passed by unnoticed even by trained observers. It is noticeable that when he sings from the midst of a high, thick spruce, particularly from the further side from us, his weak song nearly fades away.

"He is more restless than when we were here nearly two weeks ago, and keeps making little journeys to the border

of the spruce grove along a mountain brook where smaller, thickly-growing spruces give place suddenly to large deciduous trees, mostly yellow birches and red and rock maples.

"The male bird gleans his food largely from the tall spruces, and, from our study, it seems probable that he does not assist his mate in the care of the young or in incubation.

"The patch of spruces in which these birds are nesting is situated just where the steep slope of the mountain begins. In shape its outline is irregular. It is about a half a mile across and is surrounded as a rule by a large deciduous growth. On the southwest a mountain stream tumbles rapidly along its border, and on the northeast a pasture, nearly overgrown with small spruces, adjoins it. The spruces in the grove grow thickly and range in size from a few inches to eighteen inches in diameter."

It is readily apparent that the Bay-breast is a large-sized member of the Dendroicae. It has been described by Gerald Thayer (see MSS notes quoted by F. M. Chapman in "The Warblers of North America") as having a "Vireo-like leisureliness of movement," which agrees with our estimate of the male's characteristics, but the female appears extremely active, even more so than the Redstart.

Chapman gives nesting dates for this species as June 15, Bangor, Maine (Knight); and June 9-14, Listowell, Ont. (Kells). These Monadnock birds are therefore very late, due perhaps to the fact that disaster overtook an earlier attempt to raise a family, or to the fact that a second brood was being raised. As far as I am aware there is no nesting record for this species on Monadnock or for any other point as far south in New England.

In order to ascertain if the above-described occurrence of the Bay-breast here was accidental, Mrs. Whittle and I again visited the same spot on June 4, 1922. After some search a male Bay-breast was found singing less than fifty feet from his singing-tree of 1921. His song was given less frequently than the year previous and it seemed to be higher and thinner, resembling a variation of the Blackburnian Warbler's song. The female was not found.

The male, as before, remained in the spruces all the time,

feeding, and singing occasionally. He had a habit, not observed last year, of flying down to the lowest live limb of a tall spruce, and, alighting close to the bole he would work along the limb, searching for food, to the extreme end. He would then hop up to the next limb and work back to the bole. This process was repeated step by step until he reached the thick branches near the top of the tree.

This second occurrence of the Bay-breast on Monadnock at the same spot, during the nesting season, increases the presumption, already strong, that this species nests there.



CONCERNING THE FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF THE BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE.

ARTHUR P. STUBBS.

Barrow's Golden-eye has been frequently reported, by several observers, as having been seen at Lynn, Massachusetts, during the winters of 1921-22 and 1922-23. A recent article indirectly throws some doubt upon the value of these observations as records.

Mr. Ludlow Griscom, in his article "Field Studies of the Anatidae of the Atlantic Coast,"¹ says: "The drake can be easily distinguished from the last [Golden-eye] at close range by the different shape of the white spot on the face and its relative position with regard to the eye. The female and young are absolutely indistinguishable. This species is so rare, even in the northeastern states, that it should be identified with the greatest caution. A sight record would be of little value unless made by a trained field ornithologist."

My experience with this bird in the field, and considerable study of the writings of others, leads me to disagree with Mr. Griscom in two important respects:—the best basis for identifying the males of the two species, and the possibility of accurate identification by the average observer, not a trained field ornithologist.

Mr. E. H. Forbush speaks of the extreme rarity of the species in Massachusetts, saying that Brewster in 1909 recognized but three records as authentic.² He evidently considered the male easily identified by the face spot, but like Griscom considered the female unidentifiable or nearly so, and ends by referring his readers to Mr. Brewster's article in the *Auk*.³

¹ Griscom, Ludlow: *Auk*, vol. 40, p. 72, 1923.

² Forbush, E. H.: *Game Birds, Wild Fowl and Shore Birds*, p. 133-134, 1916.

³ Brewster, William: *Auk*, vol. 26, p. 153-154, 1909.

Dr. C. W. Townsend evidently considers that both male and female can be identified, and, in commenting upon a personal record made at Lynn in 1919,⁴ says: "I was first attracted to the Barrow's Golden-eye by the lack of white on the sides. In place of the great white patch on the wings and flanks of the Whistler,—a field mark noticeable at a great distance,—a horizontal row of four or five white dots or squares marks the wing coverts of the Barrow's Golden-eye. The elongated crescentic white marks on the head of the latter species distinguish it from the Whistler with its round marks. . . . I have been able to identify two female Barrow's Golden-eyes among some Whistlers in the Back Bay Basin by their smaller and yellow bills."

Mr. Allan Brooks, in his "Notes on Some American Ducks,"⁵ considers the male Barrow's Golden-eye easily identifiable at any distance at which one can distinguish one species of duck from another. He also emphasizes the blackness of the male as contrasted with the male of the common species, and calls attention to the row of white dots on the wing as a valuable field mark. In speaking of the female and young he sweeps away all the accepted field marks as to color of bill and feet, and in their place gives only a series of points to be seen and measured in the laboratory. It is interesting to note that Mr. Brooks seems to be the only writer of those quoted who has had an extended and familiar acquaintance with the species in the field.

From my reading of the authorities quoted above, and from my own field experience, I have come to the conclusion that the male Barrow's Golden-eye can be readily identified in the field by any reasonably careful observer within the distance necessary to identify ordinary species of ducks, but that the female and young cannot be identified with any degree of certainty. It seems to have been demonstrated that differences in the size and color of the bill and in the color of the feet are not dependable as a basis for identification.

⁴ Townsend, C. W.: Supplement to the Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts, p. 58-59, 1920.

⁵ Brooks, Allan: Auk, vol. 37, p. 356-365, 1920.

Since December 20, 1922, male Barrow's Golden-eyes have been on view at Lynn practically every day, keeping within the range of a six-power glass from low to high tide, often coming close to the shore and well within fifty yards of the observer. With the best of light and the birds in the right positions, it is of course possible to identify them by the face marks alone, but the surest and easiest method at any distance is by the pattern of the wing coverts. As the males of the two species float side by side the difference of these markings is very easily seen.



AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS
OBSERVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ESSEX
COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.
1922.

A change in the date of issue of the Bulletin has made possible the publishing of a bird list covering a calendar year, in place of the July to July list of former issues. To avoid a break in our records, we have made a supplementary list covering the time from July 1 to December 31, 1921.

Weather conditions during the time covered by these two lists had a very marked effect on bird movements. A terrible sleet storm in late November, 1921, followed by rough weather through the winter, made it very hard for our common winter land birds, and an unusually small number were seen. On the other hand, water birds were with us in great numbers and variety, this condition continuing well into the spring. The gull tribe so delayed their northern movement that many stayed with us through the summer.

The very wet summer of 1922 did not seem to affect the local breeding birds, with the exception of the swallows. After their departure southward very few migrant species and particularly few warblers came in to fill their places, and therefore the fall was disappointing. Along shore the ducks and other waterfowl seemed slow in arriving, but before cold weather had really set in their numbers were well up to normal. Whether we shall have as fine a showing of divers as we had last winter is yet to be seen, very few except Grebes and Loons having yet arrived (Dec. 24, 1922).

Unfortunately the Ipswich shore and marshes were not so carefully covered this year as usual, and therefore the list suffers particularly in regard to Swallows, Shore birds and Water fowl. Several trips were made to this locality,

but at irregular intervals, and therefore they do not provide the statistical information available from other parts of the County.

When a record is followed by no comment, it will be understood that the species was present in normal numbers with no unusual circumstances worthy of note.

2. Holboell's Grebe. Fairly common. April 20; November 5.
3. Horned Grebe. Very common; hundreds seen in Nahant Bay in mid-April. May 3; October 29.
6. Pied-billed Grebe. September 24 to October 29.
7. Loon. May 2; September 1.
11. Red-throated Loon. May 21; November 5.
27. Black Guillemot. January 18 to March 29. Seen at Nahant on the latter date in both summer and winter plumages.
31. Brunnich's Murre. More common along the shore than for at least fifteen years. January 14 to April 12.
32. Razor-billed Auk. One bird was surely picked out from the confusing Brunnich's Murres at Nahant on March 29. Emilio and Stubbs.
34. Dovekie. Fairly common. March 29.
40. Kittewake. Ipswich Beach. October 29. S. G. Emilio.
This species, common during the colder months on the off-shore fishing grounds, is very uncommon along shore.
42. Glaucous Gull. A few seen. February 8 to May 8.
43. Iceland Gull. A few at Fisherman's Beach, Swampscott. Last seen March 19.
47. Great Black-backed Gull. Common. One summer date, Ipswich, July 30. Emilio.
51. Herring Gull. Always present in very large numbers. Locally they do excellent and much needed work as scavengers.
58. Laughing Gull. About Lynn Harbor. May 25 to August 17.
60. Bonaparte Gull. Strangely enough present during the breeding season. May 16 to November 12.

64. Caspian Tern. Ipswich Beach, September 1. S. G. Emilio.
70. Common Tern. May 17 to September 7.
71. Arctic Tern. August 9 to September 1.
72. Roseate Tern. Ipswich Beach. September 1. S. G. Emilio.
77. Black Tern. Ipswich Beach. September 1. S. G. Emilio.
117. Gannet. March 29 to June 11; September 9 to October 29.
119. Cormorant. January 8 to March 19.
120. Double-crested Cormorant. May 21 to June 17; September 1 to November 1.
129. Merganser. March 12 to April 9; December 10.
130. Red-breasted Merganser. May 21; July 30.
133. Red-legged Black Duck. Winter.
- 133a. Black Duck. Resident.
140. Blue-winged Teal. Wenham Lake. August 11. Dr. Phillips.
144. Wood Duck. March 15. No fall records of this species were made, because the Ipswich River region, its favorite haunt, was very poorly covered during autumn.
146. Redhead. Wenham Lake. October 20 to November 24. Dr. Phillips.
147. Canvas-back. Wenham Lake. October 27. Dr. Phillips.
148. Scaup. April 15; October 12.
149. Lesser Scaup. April 30; October 11. It will be fair to state that three records of this species were made, *principally* from the localities in which they were found. This is no longer orthodox.
150. Ring-necked Duck. Wenham Lake. October 13-24. Dr. Phillips.
151. Golden-eye. April 12; October 29.
152. Barrow's Golden-eye. Sliding Rock, Lynn. January 14 to April 4; December 20.
153. Buffle-head. Nahant Beach. May 3; October 25.
154. Old Squaw. May 21; October 16.

163. Scoter. February 19; October 25.
165. White-winged Scoter. May 17; August 27.
167. Ruddy Duck. Flax Pond, Lynn. October 29 to November 5.
172. Canada Goose. January 29 to May 21; October 12.
190. Bittern. April 23 to October 16. On the latter date a Bittern alighted in Mr. S. G. Emilio's asparagus patch in Danvers.
194. Great Blue Heron. March 26 to May 30; August 2 to December 31.
201. Green Heron. May 14 to October 1.
202. Black-crowned Night Heron, March 24; November 23.
212. Virginia Rail. April 16 to December 19. From December 14 to 19, Mr. S. G. Emilio watched a Virginia Rail along a brook in Danvers.
214. Sora Rail. September 3 to 10.
228. Woodcock. March 19 to August 14.
230. Wilson Snipe. March 18 to May 20; August 2 to October 8.
231. Dowitcher. May 21. The want of fall records of this species is a good illustration of the need of more thorough work in the Ipswich shore region during the fall migration.
234. Knot. May 21; August 31.
235. Purple Sandpiper. Shag Rocks, Nahant. February 1 to March 19.
240. White-rumped Sandpiper. May 21; September 27 to November 8.
241. Baird's Sandpiper. Nahant Beach. September 2. Stubbs.
242. Least Sandpiper. May 21; July 25 to September 1.
- 243a. Red-backed Sandpiper. October 5 to November 8. Present in unusual numbers on Nahant Beach from November 1 to 8.
246. Semi-palmated Sandpiper. May 21; July 15 to October 8. Present by thousands on Nahant Beach in late August and early September.
248. Sanderling. May 21 to June 11; July 31 to November 8.

- 254. Greater Yellow-legs. May 7-21; July 30 to Nov. 12.
- 255. Yellow-legs. July 25.
- 256. Solitary Sandpiper. May 7-28; July 25 to Sept. 1.
- 261. Upland Plover. May 21; August 2.
- 263. Spotted Sandpiper. May 7 to September 6.
- 270. Black-bellied Plover. May 21 to June 4; July 30 to October 25.
- 272. Golden Plover. Early September.
- 273. Killdeer. March 10 to October 4. Definite records of two nests with eggs were made this year. One in Peabody and one in Saugus.
- 274. Semi-palmated Plover. May 17 to June 4; July 15 to October 5.
- 277. Piping Plover. May 17.
- 283a. Ruddy Turnstone. May 21; August 9 to October 4.
- 289. Bob-White. Several records, mostly along the Ipswich River.
- 300. Ruffed Grouse. Fairly common.
- 316. Mourning Dove. April 1 to October 15.
- 331. Marsh Hawk. April 2 to October 21.
- 332. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Common.
- 333. Cooper's Hawk. Less common than previous species.
- 339. Red-shouldered Hawk. Common.
- 343. Broad-winged Hawk. May 20. Apparently rare in Essex County.
- 356a. Duck Hawk. September 27 to November 12.
- 357. Pigeon Hawk. April 29; October 5.
- 360. Sparrow Hawk. Common.
- 364. Osprey. March 26 to May 31; September 6 to October 6.
- 366. Long-eared Owl. April 10. A pair seen near Den Quarry, Lynn. C. E. Moulton.
- 367. Short-eared Owl. Cliff at Nahant. January 18 to May 3.
- 368. Barred Owl. A few seen.
- 376. Snowy Owl. Hamilton. January 27. W. B. Porter.
- 387. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. May 21. Has apparently become scarce in Essex County. Result of spraying?

388. Black-billed Cuckoo. May 9 to August 6. Not so rare as above but seemingly decreasing in numbers.
390. Belted Kingfisher. January 7. Gloucester. George Felt. March 26 to November 5. Nahant, December 20. A. P. Stubbs.
393. Hairy Woodpecker. Fairly common.
- 394c. Downy Woodpecker. Common.
402. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. April 7 to May 1; September 27 to October 13.
406. Red-headed Woodpecker. Danvers, September 27. S. G. Emilio.
- 412a. Northern Flicker. Common.
417. Whip-poor-will. May 3 to September 8. Not so many reported as in 1921.
420. Nighthawk. May 20 to September 16. Few reported.
423. Chimney Swifts. May 3 to September 6. Apparently had a poor breeding season.
428. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. May 10 to September 17. Becoming rare.
444. Kingbird. May 17 to September 17. Collects in favorite locations, notably on Flagstaff Hill, Fay estate, in great numbers in late August.
452. Crested Flycatcher. May 20 to September 10. More common along Ipswich River for the last two or three years.
456. Phoebe. March 25 to October 26. Normally a bird of two broods in Essex County.
459. Olive-sided Flycatcher. May 21 to June 4. Rare.
461. Wood Pewee. May 20 to September 27. Latter date beside Floating Bridge Pond. A. P. Stubbs.
467. Least Flycatcher. April 28 to August 18.
474. Horned Lark. April 11. (May 30, Ipswich, S. G. Emilio) ; October 29.
- 474b. Prairie Horned Lark. November 19.
477. Blue Jay. Common.
488. Crow. Winter roost at Castle Hill, Ipswich, forming again early winter of 1922.
494. Bobolink. May 10 to September 17. Common in meadows.

- 495. Cowbird. March 15 to October 22.
- 498. Red-winged Blackbird. February 22 to August 6.
- 501. Meadowlark. Locally common resident.
- 507. Baltimore Oriole. May 7 to September 9.
- 509. Rusty Blackbird. March 7 to May 14; September 23 to November 1.
- 511b. Bronzed Grackle. March 7 to November 19. This species is surely increasing in numbers. Great flocks gathered in the Ipswich River valley during October and early November. This bird needs no protection.
- 514. Evening Grosbeak. January 1 to May 11. As many as eighty about feeding stations in Danvers and Topsfield.
- 515. Pine Grosbeak. January 29. Few seen.
- 517. Purple Finch. Winters here in variable numbers. Apparently breeds in small numbers.
- 522. White-winged Crossbill. Danvers, November 5. S. G. Emilio.
- 528. Redpoll. February 7 to 21; December 10. No large flocks.
- 529. Goldfinch. Common resident.
- 533. Pine Siskin. March 30 to May 14; October 9. Not abundant.
- 534. Snow Bunting. February 21; October 29. Few large flocks.
- 540. Vesper Sparrow. April 2 to October 31. Locally common.
- 542a. Savannah Sparrow. April 16 to November 5. Locally common.
- 549. Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Ipswich. July 30. S. G. Emilio.
- 554. White-crowned Sparrow. May 14; October 22 to November 5.
- 558. White-throated Sparrow. April 29 to May 21; Sept. 14 to December 31.
- 559. Tree Sparrow. April 30; October 26.
- 560. Chipping Sparrow. April 9 to November 1.
- 563. Field Sparrow. April 7 to October 23.

- 567. Slate-colored Junco. May 3; September 30.
- 581. Song Sparrow. Usual numbers.
- 583. Lincoln's Sparrow. Danvers, September 6 to 22.
S. G. Emilio.
- 584. Swamp Sparrow. April 16 to November 12.
- 585. Fox Sparrow. March 12 to May 1; October 14 to
December 24.
- 587. Towhee. May 2 to November 28.
- 595. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. May 11 to September 19.
- 598. Indigo Bunting. May 21 to September 27.
- 608. Scarlet Tanager. May 14 to October 1.
- 611. Purple Martin. April 27 to May 21. No record of
breeding.
- 612. Cliff Swallow. May 13 to July 30.
- 613. Barn Swallow. April 16 to September 4.
- 614. Tree Swallow. March 26 to September 1.
- 616. Bank Swallow. May 7 to September 1.
- 619. Cedar Waxwing. Not up to usual numbers.
- 621. Northern Shrike. April 12; December 8.
- 624. Red-eyed Vireo. May 14 to October 4.
- 627. Warbling Vireo. May 13 to September 11. Only
locally common.
- 628. Yellow-throated Vireo. May 6 to September 4.
- 629. Blue-headed Vireo. April 19 to May 14; September
30 to October 20.
- 636. Black and White Warbler. May 1 to September 8.
- 642. Golden-winged Warbler. May 7 to August 22.
- 645. Nashville Warbler. May 6 to August 20.
- 647. Tennessee Warbler. May 21. Fay estate, Lynn.
C. E. Moulton.
- 648a. Northern Parula Warbler. May 2-14. It is remark-
able that we had no fall records.
- 650. Cape May Warbler. Woodside, Swampscott. May 13.
A. Morley.
- 652. Yellow Warbler. May 3 to September 14.
- 654. Black-throated Blue Warbler. May 11 to 24.
- 655. Myrtle Warbler. April 9 to May 14; September 17
to November 26.
- 657. Magnolia Warbler. May 14 to 28.

- 659. Chestnut-sided Warbler. May 7 to August 18.
- 660. Bay-breasted Warbler. Fay estate, Lynn. May 27.
C. E. Moulton.
- 661. Black-poll Warbler. May 20 to 30; September 7 to
October 1.
- 662. Blackburnian Warbler. May 8 to 21.
- 667. Black-throated Green Warbler. May 1 to October 15.
- 671. Pine Warbler. May 26 to October 1.
- 672. Palm Warbler. September 22 to October 15.
- 672a. Yellow Palm Warbler. April 8 to May 11; Sep-
tember 30 to November 26.
- 673. Prairie Warbler. May 9. Several visits to the Lynn
Woods Park and adjoining brush lands, where this
species has been almost abundant for several years,
gave very scant results in Prairie Warbler records.
Whether the sprout lands are becoming too high
and rank in growth or whether 1922 weather was
unfavorable, we are at a loss to decide; the birds
surely were not to be found.
- 674. Ovenbird. May 4 to September 24. ,
- 675. Water-Thrush. May 14-21; August 21 to Sept. 24.
- 678. Connecticut Warbler. Danvers, September 7 to 17.
S. G. Emilio.
- 681. Maryland Yellow-throat. May 7 to September 23.
- 685. Wilson's Warbler. May 13 to 23.
- 686. Canada Warbler. May 11 to 23; August 14. June
14, a pair of this species found on the edge of a
wooded swamp in Lynn Woods Park. August 15,
a male and possibly a female at the same spot.
This species has bred in Lynn and the location
seems to be an ideal breeding place for it. The
August 14 date was made in a thick hillside tangle
at Fay's. A. P. Stubbs.
- 687. Redstart. May 6 to September 7.
- 697. Pipit. October 1 to November 22.
- 703. Mockingbird. About yard, Danvers. October 29.
Dr. W. G. Fanning.
- 704. Catbird. May 7 to December 3. The latter date is a
record of W. D. Moon, made beside Floting Bridge

Pond. Later in the day the bird was observed nearby by Walter Stoddard.

- 705. Brown Thrasher. April 30 to October 6.
- 721. House Wren. May 7 to August 4. Uncommon summer resident.
- 724. Short-billed Marsh Wren. May 9 to July 30.
- 725. Long-billed Marsh Wren. May 21. Another species which was neglected during the latter part of the season.
- 726. Brown Creeper. May 1; October 1.
- 727. White-breasted Nuthatch. May 7.
- 728. Red-breasted Nuthatch. April 25. The absence of both Nuthatches during the fall of 1922 is remarkable.
- 735. Chickadee. Usual numbers.
- 748. Golden-crowned Kinglet. April 16; September 22.
- 749. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. April 10 to May 3. September 17 to December 3. Late date. S. G. Emilio.
- 755. Wood Thrush. May 7 to September 21. Not abundant.
- 756. Veery. May 7 to September 1.
- 758. Olive-backed Thrush. May 20-21.
- 759b. Hermit Thrush. April 10 to November 22.
- 761. Robin. Few present in the colder months, otherwise normal.
- 766. Bluebird. March 10 to November 8.

A. P. STUBBS, Recorder.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.
JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 1921.

- 2. Holboell's Grebe. September 8.
- 3. Horned Grebe. November 16.
- 6. Pied-billed Grebe. August 14 to November 11.
- 7. Loon. August 28.
- 11. Red-throated Loon. September 8.
- 34. Dovekie. November 29.
- 43. Iceland Gull. December 11.
- 47. Great Black-backed Gull. July 11.
- 51. Herring Gull. Usual numbers.
- 58. Laughing Gull. Plum Island, September 8. J. W. Goodridge.
- 60. Bonaparte's Gull. July 24 to December 1.
- 70. Common Tern. October 12.
- 71. Arctic Tern. Ipswich Beach, July 31. S. G. Emilio.
- 72. Roseate Tern. Ipswich Beach, July 31. S. G. Emilio.
- 74. Least Tern. Plum Island, September 8. J. W. Goodridge.
- 106. Leach's Petrel. Found alive on Lyman street, Lynn, and given to Game Warden Thos. Burney, July 11. Identified by A. P. Stubbs.
- 109. Wilson's Petrel. July 11 to September 4.
- 117. Gannet. September 4 to October 9.
- 120. Double-crested Cormorant. August 27 to October 9.
- 129. Merganser. November 23.
- 130. Red-breasted Merganser. Bred in Essex Co., 1921.
- 133. Red-legged Black Duck. In usual numbers.
- 133a. Black Duck. Bred well in 1921.
- 137. Baldpate. Hamilton, September 18. J. W. Goodridge.
- 139. Green-winged Teal. September 4 to November 13.
- 143. Pintail. Ipswich, Aug. 20 to Oct. 2. Dr. Townsend.
- 144. Wood Duck. October.
- 146. Redhead. October 30 to November 13.
- 148. Scaup. September 8.

149. Lesser Scaup. October 16 to December 4.
151. Golden-eye. November 16.
153. Buffle-head. November 4.
154. Old Squaw. November 9.
163. Scoter. September 8.
165. White-winged Scoter. August 7.
166. Surf Scoter. September 8.
172. Canada Goose. September 8.
- 173a. Brant. Hog Island, Ipswich, Oct. 12. Dr. Townsend.
190. Bittern. October 22.
194. Great Blue Heron. July 29 to December 7.
196. Egret. July 23 to August 28.
201. Green Heron. September 28.
202. Black-crowned Night Heron. November 23.
208. King Rail. Topsfield, October 28. J. W. Goodridge.
212. Virginia Rail. September 8.
215. Yellow Rail. Topsfield, September 11. J. W. Good-
ridge.
219. Florida Gallinule. Ipswich River, September 24,
J. W. Goodridge.
221. Coot. September 23 to October 16.
228. Woodcock. November 12.
230. Wilson's Snipe. December 4.
231. Dowitcher. July 3.
234. Knot. September 3.
235. Pectoral Sandpiper. September 23 to October 16.
240. White-rumped Sandpiper. Aug. 24 to Sept. 30.
242. Least Sandpiper. July 30 to August 30.
- 243a. Red-backed Sandpiper. September 8 to October 19.
246. Semi-palmated Sandpiper. July 3 to September 25.
248. Sanderling. July 31 to November 12.
254. Greater Yellow-legs. July 31 to November 11.
255. Yellow-legs. July 3.
256. Solitary Sandpiper. July 31 to October 12.
258. Willet. Rowley, July 3. J. W. Goodridge.
261. Upland Plover. July 9 to September 10.
263. Spotted Sandpiper. November 2.
270. Black-bellied Plover. September 3 to October 16.
272. Golden Plover. September 8 to 11.

- 273. Killdeer. November 13.
- 274. Semi-palmated Plover. July 31 to September 25.
- 277. Piping Plover. August 28.
- 283a. Ruddy Turnstone. September 3 to October 12.
- 316. Mourning Dove. November 12.
- 351. Marsh Hawk. September 19.
- 332. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Frequent reports.
- 333. Cooper's Hawk. Occasional reports.
- 337. Red-tailed Hawk. Two reports for the season.
- 339. Red-shouldered Hawk. Common.
- 343. Broad-winged Hawk. September 19.
- 356a. Duck Hawk. Danvers, October 8. S. G. Emilio.
- 357. Pigeon Hawk. August 28 to September 15.
- 360. Sparrow Hawk. Common.
- 364. Osprey. September 11 to October 23.
- 366. Long-eared Owl. Ipswich, October 9. Dr. Townsend.
- 388. Black-billed Cuckoo. October 14.
- 390. Belted Kingfisher. October 22.
- 393. Hairy Woodpecker. Fairly common.
- 394c. Downy Woodpecker. Common.
- 402. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Sept. 28 to Oct. 23.
- 412a. Northern Flicker. Common.
- 417. Whip-poor-will. September 22.
- 420. Night Hawk. September 19.
- 423. Chimney Swift. September 4.
- 428. Ruby-throated Humming-bird. August 27.
- 444. Kingbird. September 13.
- 452. Crested Flycatcher. August 22.
- 461. Wood Pewee. September 4.
- 467. Least Flycatcher. August 23.
- 474. Horned Lark. November 16.
- 474b. Prairie Horned Lark. September 4.
- 477. Blue Jay. Usual numbers.
- 488. Crow. Usual numbers.
- 494. Bobolink. September 11.
- 495. Cowbird. October 30.
- 496. Red-winged Blackbird. November 11.
- 501. Meadowlark. Locally common.
- 507. Baltimore Oriole. September 25.

- 509. Rusty Blackbird. November 13.
- 511b. Bronzed Grackle. November 20.
- 514. Evening Grosbeak. November 9.
- 515. Pine Grosbeak. November 6.
- 517. Purple Finch. November 3.
- 528. Redpoll. November 20.
- 529. Goldfinch. Usual numbers.
- 533. Pine Siskin. November 20.
- 534. Snow Bunting. November 2.
- 540. Vesper Sparrow. October 26.
- 542. Savannah Sparrow. November 13.
- 546a. Grasshopper Sparrow. Howe Station, July 17 to
August 21. S. G. Emilio.
- 554. White-crowned Sparrow. October 10 to 16.
- 558. White-throated Sparrow. (July 24, 31) Sept. 8 to
November 21.
- 559. Tree Sparrow. September 24.
- 560. Chipping Sparrow. October 22.
- 563. Field Sparrow. November 6.
- 567. Slate-colored Junco. September 18.
- 581. Song Sparrow. Usual numbers.
- 584. Swamp Sparrow. November 6.
- 585. Fox Sparrow. October 23 to December 14.
- 587. Towhee. November 11.
- 595. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. September 26.
- 598. Indigo Bunting. August 2.
- 608. Scarlet Tanager. August 7.
- 612. Cliff Swallow. August 28.
- 613. Barn Swallow. September 25.
- 614. Tree Swallow. October 12.
- 616. Bank Swallow. August 28.
- 619. Cedar Waxwing. Usual numbers.
- 621. Northern Shrike. October 26.
- 624. Red-eyed Vireo. September 17.
- 627. Warbling Vireo. September 26.
- 628. Yellow-throated Vireo. September 24.
- 629. Blue-headed Vireo. September 14 to October 22.
- 631. White-eyed Vireo. Salem Pasture, July 27. C. E.
Moulton.

- 636. Black and White Warbler. August 28.
- 642. Golden-winged Warbler. August 28.
- 645. Nashville Warbler. August 21.
- 647. Tennessee Warbler. August 20 to September 26.
- 648a. Northern Parula Warbler. August 23 to October 9.
- 652. Yellow Warbler. September 12.
- 654. Black-hroated Blue Warbler. September 24 to 29.
- 655. Myrtle Warbler. August 20 to November 6.
- 657. Magnolia Warbler. September 23.
- 659. Chestnut-sided Warbler. August 24.
- 660. Bay-breasted Warbler. August 14.
- 661. Black-poll Warbler. August 23 to October 19.
- 667. Black-throated Green Warbler. October 3.
- 671. Pine Warbler. October 16.
- 672. Palm Warbler. September 19 to October 15.
- 672a. Yellow Palm Warbler. Sept. 18 to Nov. 13.
- 673. Prairie Warbler. August 22.
- 674. Ovenbird. August 28.
- 675. Water Thrush. September 21 to 25.
- 678. Connecticut Warbler. Danvers, September 10 and 15.
S. G. Emilio.
- 681. Maryland Yellow-throat. October 16.
- 687. Redstart. September 17.
- 697. Pipit. September 8 to November 11.
- 703. Mockingbird. Two reported, Manchester and Dan-
vers.
- 704. Catbird. October 17.
- 705. Brown Thrasher. October 1.
- 721. House Wren. September 1.
- 722. Winter Wren. October 16 to 21.
- 724. Short-billed Marsh Wren. July 30.
- 725. Long-billed Marsh Wren. July 24.
- 726. Brown Creeper. September 4.
- 727. White-breasted Nuthatch. September 28.
- 728. Red-breasted Nuthatch. August 20.
- 735. Chickadee. Usual numbers.
- 748. Golden-crowned Kinglet. September 17.
- 749. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. October 9 to 22.
- 755. Wood Thrush. September 24.

756. Veery. August 24.
757. Gray-checked Thrush. September 28 to October 2.
758a. Olive-backed Thrush. September 10 to 27.
759b. Hermit Thrush. October 29.
761. Robin. Nearly all had migrated south by December.
766. Bluebird. November 14.

A. P. STUBBS, Recorder.



THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW ENGLAND BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION.

LAURENCE B. FLETCHER.

The New England Bird Banding Association was founded on January 16, 1922, and as a result of preliminaries which had been going on during the previous six months, approximately one hundred and fifty persons had, up to January 16, signified their intention of becoming members of the Association. On January 1, 1923, there were approximately four hundred active members, and in addition over one hundred persons had expressed a desire to join.

During 1922 members of the New England Association have banded nearly five thousand birds, and complete records of these bandings are in the files of the Association. This number would, undoubtedly, have been several times greater had it not been for the lack of bands, as the United States Government had very few for distribution between June and November, owing to the unexpected demand. The Association's records show that one hundred and thirty species have been banded, the Song Sparrow heading the list with five hundred and forty-two. The Robin, with two hundred and nineteen, and the Chipping Sparrow with one hundred and eighty-three, come next in order. Black-crowned Night Herons, Roseate Terns, Purple Finches and White-throated Sparrows number about one hundred and fifty each; Tree Sparrows and Barn Swallows about one hundred each. Some of the more uncommon species successfully banded are Petrels, Scaup Duck, Woodcock, Spotted Sandpiper, Semi-palmated Plover, Hummingbird, Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Blue-headed Vireo, Magnolia Warbler, Brown Creeper, Blue-winged Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

The Hon. Herbert Parker banded the first bird for the

Association, a Tree Sparrow, and Mr. Aaron C. Bagg of Holyoke, Mass., banded the first migrating Song Sparrow, March 9, at 4.30 P. M., three hours after it appeared on his grounds.

The following history of a Song Sparrow banded at Cohasset, Mass., by Mr. Laurence B. Fletcher, will show the importance of recording repeats (taken from Circular No. 3, U. S. Biological Survey) :

No. 11006, Song Sparrow, Banded May 29, 1921, 3.15 P. M.

Repeats, 1921,	May 31,	12 Noon
“	June 5,	7 P. M.
“	June 6,	11 A. M.
“	June 7,	4 P. M.
“	June 16,	4 P. M.
Return, 1922,	May 13, 1922,	3 P. M.
Repeats, 1922,	May 16,	11 A. M.
“	May 16,	4 P. M.
“	July 5,	5 P. M.
“	July 13,	8 A. M.
“	July 22,	2 P. M.
“	July 26,	11 A. M.
“	July 29,	8 A. M.
“	Aug. 10,	3 P. M.

What became of No. 11006 after June 16, 1921, and where did it go on May 16, 1922, after it had returned three days previously? What was it doing in the period from May 16 to July 5? At present these questions are puzzling, but with persistent work such details ultimately will be solved.

Mrs. W. H. Herrick, of Topsfield, Mass., traps her birds in an ordinary canary cage, made so that the perch will break when a bird alights, thus closing the door. This trap is on the roof of a piazza under her bedroom window. She trapped and banded forty-three Evening Grosbeaks last spring, and three of these birds were in the cage at one time; the last one was banded May 8. She has also trapped and banded, among other birds, one hundred and nineteen adult Purple Finches. One Purple Finch, after

trapping himself, mounted the upper perch and burst into song.

Hon. Herbert Parker, of Lancaster, Mass., the latter part of last winter banded thirty Tree Sparrows, nineteen Fox and eighteen Song Sparrows. The Tree and Song Sparrows repeated, but none of the Fox Sparrows. In April and May, twenty-two White-throats were banded, and none of these repeated, except one which came at 8 in the morning and repeated at 6.30 at night. In October Mr. Parker banded a White-crowned Sparrow, "young of the year," and some Fox Sparrows, and of these he had three Fox Sparrows repeat in November.

William E. Smith, of South Chatham, Mass., banded over one hundred Common and Roseate Terns, fledglings, and while on a trip to New Brunswick on the steamer Governor Dingley, he banded a Song Sparrow which flew on board when the boat was 30 miles off Portland, Maine, and released it next day at Lubec, Maine.

Miss Bertha E. Brown, of Bangor, Maine, in reporting the banding of a Chipping Sparrow, said that when she opened her hand to release the bird he would not fly, but lay quietly on her outstretched hand. This continued so long that she became tired and sat down. When she looked at her watch, she found that the sparrow had remained five minutes longer before deciding to fly away.

While on a vacation at Unity, Maine, Mr. Arthur W. Taylor, of Salem, Mass., banded a female Wood Pewee and two young. The mother bird was so tame that she fed the young birds as they sat on Mr. Taylor's knee.

Mr. L. B. Fletcher, of Cohasset, banded a Red-winged Blackbird (male) in August, 1922. The next day this bird appeared at the trap with a female and four fledglings. After leading them around the trap several times, the female and four young went under the trap, were taken and banded. In the twenty years Mr. Fletcher has lived there he had never observed Red-winged Blackbirds on his lawn, where the trap is operated, until regular feeding was established.

Mrs. Alice B. Pratt, of Middleboro, Mass., used a pull-string trap on the beach at Marion, and caught and banded

two Spotted Sandpipers and two Semipalmated Plovers.

Leach's Petrels (43), Prof. Alfred O. Gross, Brunswick, Maine.

Roseate Terns (49 young) at Chatham, Mass., and 61 Cliff Swallows in Sweden, Me., Henry E. Childs of Providence, R. I.

Purple Finches (19), Mrs. W. K. Harrington, Norwalk, Conn.

Song Sparrows (65), Sydney Harris, Vineyard Haven, Mass.

Redstart, male, flew into back kitchen, banded by Miss Inez Annie Howe, St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Fox, Song and Tree Sparrows (70), in March and April, Mr. Frank Novak, Fairfield, Conn.

At Sandwich, Cape Cod, Mass., a Junco was banded March 31, by Mrs. George H. Burbank. On April 26 a cat brought in this bird in Buckland, in the extreme western part of the same state.

Mr. R. E. Horsey, of Rochester, N. Y., reported that Common Tern No. 104872 was found August 13, at Stop 22, Manitou Line, near Rochester, alive, but it soon died. The bird was banded by Edwin Beaupre, near Kingston, Ontario.

On June 17, Messrs. Fletcher, Floyd and Mackaye banded one hundred and four Black-crowned Night Herons (fledglings) at Sandy Neck, West Barnstable, Mass. Three of these banded birds were heard from later in the summer. The first, August 7, at Kennebunkport, Me., about 120 miles north of Sandy Neck; the second, August 20, at Fryeburg, Maine, 200 miles north of Cape Cod and well inland; while the third was picked up September 4 near Marblehead, Mass., about 60 miles from its place of banding.

Black-crowned Night Heron 201635, banded by Mr. S. G. Emilio at Ipswich Beach, July 30, was found injured at North Andover on September 25. This town is about 20 miles west of Ipswich.

Mr. J. Howard Edwards, of Boston, shot nine banded Black Ducks, among others, at Tunk Pond, Maine, November 6 and 7. These birds were banded by Joseph Pulitzer, of Bar Harbor, Maine.

Black Duck No. 10505, banded by Mr. Robie W. Tufts, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, June 21, at Seal Island, was killed at Goose Bay, Yarmouth County, N. S., November 8.

A Bronzed Grackle, banded September 11, by Mr. Charles A. Floyd, Auburndale, Mass., was found wounded at Elizabeth, N. J., November 7. Later it recovered and flew away with others of its kind.

Professor W. C. Vinal, of Providence, R. I., banded a Flicker at Wellfleet, Mass. This bird was found dead in a chimney of a closed summer cottage, November 5th, at North Eastham, Mass.

Records covering fifteen days, of fifty-five banded birds show, according to the following tabulation, how frequently "repeats" are made:

- 14 were in the trap once.
- 13 were in the trap twice.
- 9 were in the trap three times.
- 1 in the trap five times.
- 2 in the trap seven times.
- 1 in the trap nine times.
- 1 in the trap ten times.

Messrs. Fletcher, Whittle and Floyd motored through Essex County visiting old barns, both deserted and occupied, and succeeded in banding forty-three Barn Swallow nestlings.

One of the members of the N. E. B. B. A. who lives in Middleboro, Mass., spent her summer at Marion, Mass., and banded on the beach two Sharp-tailed Sparrows, two Spotted Sandpipers, and two Semipalmated Plovers. She used the pull-string trap. "I hid behind a wall near a marsh, and when they went under my trap I pulled the string. I didn't use any bait but let them hunt in their natural way. I couldn't see what the sandpipers and sparrows ate, but the plovers ate long worms which they pulled out of the ground the way Robins pull a worm in the garden. I put my trap out three days before banding, to let them get used to it."

A Word about Traps.

The majority of our banders have the Government sparrow trap, or something very like it. Others have simply a pull-string trap, and some have both kinds. A member in West Virginia uses a trap which he considers superior to the ordinary pull-string trap. It is four feet square, fifteen inches high, with a swinging door in one side, hinged to the top piece of the trap. This door is held open by a cord. Loosening the cord lets the door fall and closes the trap. A Rochester, N. Y., man placed his trap over a bird bath, which has proven to be very successful. At Manchester, N. H., a member uses two Government traps, one painted fern green and the other unpainted. He makes the interesting statement that on one occasion when the traps were left side by side for several days, the painted trap was not occupied at all, while the unpainted one trapped six or seven birds.

Bait.

The baits most commonly used and which have proven most successful have been chick feed, millet, sunflower seeds, canary seed, crusts of bread, doughnuts, suet, etc. Experiments should be made frequently, however, and it has been often found that a change of bait will add very much to the bander's record. It has been reported that a Catbird would not take any bait placed under a trap, and not until brown bread crusts were used was the Catbird taken.

Mr. Aaron C. Bagg, of Holyoke, Mass., banded fifty-six Tree Sparrows. Thirty-one were banded prior to March 1, 1922, twenty-five after March 1, 1922. The following is a record of the seven returns he has had:

- No. 22196, banded Feb. 11, 1922, returned Dec. 4, 1922.
- No. 22188, banded Feb. 10, 1922, returned Dec. 11, 1922.
- No. 22190, banded Feb. 10, 1922, returned Dec. 11, 1922.
- No. 22202, banded Feb. 11, 1922, returned Dec. 13, 1922.
- No. 22198, banded Feb. 11, 1922, returned Dec. 18, 1922.
- No. 22199, banded Feb. 11, 1922, returned Dec. 19, 1922.
- No. 14030, banded Feb. 17, 1922, returned Jan. 6, 1923.

A complete history of No. 22196 is as follows:

Banded Feb. 11, 1922.

Repeated, Feb. 14, 1922, 10 A. M.

" Feb. 16, 1922, 10.14 A. M.

" Feb. 16, 1922, 5.25 P. M.

" Feb. 17, 1922.

" Feb. 18, 1922, 9 A. M.

" Feb. 18, 1922, 10.50 A. M.

" Feb. 18, 1922, 3 P. M.

" Feb. 19, 1922.

" Feb. 22, 1922, 12.25 P. M.

" Feb. 22, 1922, 5 P. M.

" March 12, 1922.

" March 24, 1922.

Returned, Dec. 4, 1922.

Repeated, Jan. 18, 1923.

Mr. L. B. Fletcher banded Song Sparrow 28070 at Cohasset, Mass., July 6th, 1922.

Repeated, July 7th, 1922.

" January 11th, 1923.

" January 13th, 1923.

" January 15th, 1923.

" January 18th, 1923.

" January 20th, 1923.

" January 25th, 1923.

" January 28th, 1923.

This seems to show without question that this bird has remained at Cohasset, where it was banded in the summer of 1922, up to January 28th, 1923.



AROUND THE BIG TABLE

THE HARLEQUIN DUCK ON THE COAST OF ESSEX COUNTY, MASS.

In the "Birds of Essex County," published in 1905, I was able to give only three records of the Harlequin Duck for the County. These were all from mounted specimens. Two were in the Essex County collection of the Peabody Museum of Salem, one a male from Baker's Island, without date; the other a young male from Marblehead, dated Nov. 11, 1883. The third, also a male, from Swampscott, dated Nov. 20, 1877, was in the collection of the Brookline, Mass., High School. In the "Supplement," published in 1920, I was unable to add any more records, but I have had recently an interesting experience, which is worth recording.

On March 4, 1922, in company with several friends, I took the steamer from Boston running to Gloucester. The Captain, at our request, steamed close to Half-way Rock, a small rocky islet rising abruptly from the sea to a height of about fifty feet. The Rock lies two miles off Marblehead, about half-way between Boston Outer Light and Gloucester. In addition to a Common Cormorant and two or more Purple Sandpipers, we started from this rock two small ducks, which I believe were Harlequins. One of these flew wildly about the rock and over the water astern of us, not scaling

close to the surface, but rising and falling and turning this way and that, so we were able to see both its back and breast. In the dull light of a cloudy day we were unable, even with 8-power binoculars, to detect any colors or markings, and the duck looked uniformly dull gray or black. Its size, shape and method of flight excluded at once the American Scoter and the Black Duck. I am fairly familiar with the Harlequin Duck on the Labrador coast. The female and young look uniformly dark above and below and on the wings, with the exception of a variable amount of white near the eye, and this it is often difficult to see on a bird in flight.

Knight, in "The Birds of Maine," said of the Harlequin, in 1908: "They were formerly common along the coast from November until March and April, but now occur only in the extreme winter months in limited numbers among the outer surf-beaten ledges and islands of our Eastern coast."

It is possible the Harlequin has been frequenting this outlying Essex County rock.

CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M. D.

A WINTER AFTERNOON AT NAHANT.

The afternoon of January 18, 1922, was dull and squally, and although the temperature was not much below freezing there was a penetrating northwest wind, which ruthlessly sought the less protected parts of the body. With two fellow-members of the Bird Club, both immune to such weather when there is a prospect of meeting either new or old bird friends, I started for Nahant.

Off shore from Red Rock, which is situated in Lynn not far from the Nahant line, we saw two male Barrow's Golden-eyes. These were first reported in that locality on January 14th, by R. B. Mackintosh. There were many female Golden-eyes in the vicinity, and it seems fair to assume that some of them were Barrow's.

We stopped at Little Nahant and from the verandas of the closed summer cottages, watched to our hearts' content

the Dovekies and Brunnich's Murres, or little battleships, as someone has fancifully called them. One never gets tired of watching these two interesting northern strangers.

From Little Nahant we went to the Forty Steps, and thence to the cliffs on the Lodge and James estates. At the latter place, the most interesting bird we saw was a Short-eared Owl. He was perched on a crag overlooking the water and was sharply outlined against the sky. We got close enough to him to plainly see, with our glasses, the color of his eyes, the fine markings of the plumage and the two little tufts of feathers, like ears, protruding from his head. He finally resented further approach and circled out over the water toward the Lodge estate. To me, it seemed odd for an owl to be flying out to sea, even for a short distance. We followed to his apparent objective, and while we were wondering what had become of him, he flew up almost at our feet and circled back to where we first observed him.

From the rocks on the Lodge estate we had a fine opportunity to watch two Black Guillemots in winter plumage, gracefully riding the waves and diving frequently for food. The bird in this plumage surely belies his name, as the striking thing about him is not the black but the amount of white he shows. On the harbor side, nearly opposite the Life-Saving Station, were approximately two hundred Black Ducks.

Our list for the afternoon, which was satisfactory to us and may be interesting to others, follows:

Holboell's Grebe, Horned Grebe, Black Guillemot, Brunnich's Murre, Dovekie, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Red-breasted Merganser, Black Duck, Golden-eye, Barrow's Golden-eye, Old-Squaw, Scoter. White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Short-eared Owl, White-breasted Nuthatch and Chickadee.

C. E. CHASE.

THE DRUMMING OF THE SNIPE.

It was just before dusk on April 25, 1922, when a party of Club members gathered about a clump of bushes on the edge of Nichols Brook, a little stream which runs more or less parallel to East Street and eventually finds its way into

the Ipswich River. The object of the meeting was to listen to the drumming of the Snipe and, if possible, observe the birds in this aerial performance. The men composed themselves, and there was as much silence as the different dispositions of the group would allow. There were never more than five men talking at once.

The sun had long since set and night was drawing its curtain across the afterglow and in the swamp the thrushes, song sparrows and other birds were singing to the passing day. Down the road a large dog pointed his nose to heaven and tried to break all long-distance records for uproarious vocalization. Different sounds, both wild and tame, were identified and commented upon, until there came a lull; even the talkative members of the party were silent, and then from above was heard a sound similar to that made by the air rushing through the wings of a domestic pigeon. The Snipe had arrived and everything else was forgotten. During the next half-hour the air was filled with the drumming of the Snipe and the conjectures of the party. The darkness made it impossible to catch but fleeting glimpses of the birds as they darted downward from the sky or fluttered to the ground. No one was able to see how the sound was made, but everyone heard it and caught an occasional quick view of the birds. Some saw one bird, others saw more, and one man went so far as to declare he saw five Snipe, thereby drawing on himself sundry observations more pointed than scientific. Taking it all in all, the trip was a success, inasmuch as the birds were located, seen and heard.

A. B. FOWLER.

NOTES FROM A BIT OF WATERFRONT, 1922.

The point of made land, on the Lynn side of the mouth of Saugus River, has become covered by a growth of weeds and grass. This growth was first tenanted by the Savannah Sparrows, lovers of sandy ground near salt water. During the summer of 1922, I several times put up from this weedy waste two or more Prairie Horned Larks, judging from plumage, an old pair and their young. An amusing feature

of this experience was, that my best sight of the old birds was within a hundred feet of a taxi-aeroplane that shared the made land with the sparrows and larks. The birds were within a few feet of each other, on the ground, and the female held some winged insect, resembling a small dragon-fly, in her bill.

Along the harbor side of the point, the remains of a plank bulk-head furnish resting places for the gull tribe. Here, on July 7, I found fully two hundred Bonaparte Gulls with a sprinkling of Common Terns. The tameness of the birds and a six-power glass made identification easy. Many of the Bonapartes were in summer plumage, including the black hoods, which are not commonly seen in this region. The black-tipped red bills of the Terns were also easily made out.

From half to full tide there is a sandy stretch from the weeds to the waters edge, the wide mud flats being covered by water. Here, on August 9, I found several thousand shore birds, about evenly divided as to species between Semipalmated Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plover; a single Turnstone left the bunch and flew out over the harbor.

The cove between the point and the Gas Works, when filled by the rising tide, is a favorite feeding and resting place for hundreds of Blue-bills, from the time shooting ceases January 1 to mid-April, when they depart northward. These few acres of weedy ground and its shore are on the sea side of a busy boulevard, carrying an almost continuous traffic and a bare half mile from Lynn's most crowded manufacturing district; yet, taking the year through, well repays any attention the bird student may give it.

A. P. STUBBS.

A SPRINGTIME TRYST.

We selected an evening in mid-April, a few bird cranks for company, and boarded a car that arrived near Howe Station at six o'clock. Proceeding up East Street about three-fourths of a mile, we came to what appeared to be a favorable locality, and decided to spend the evening there.

Imagine a juniper-covered hillside, sloping up toward the west, bordered laterally with swamp land and hardwood growth, with here and there a few evergreens, and you have the stage setting of our evening's diversion. We oriented ourselves so that anything arising from the hillside, between us and the afterglow from the setting sun, would probably be seen, and seated ourselves down among the junipers to await developments. Our arrival had been timed so nicely that scarcely had the twinkling stars cut their path through the deepening dusk before the show was on.

Our ears soon singled out from other noises, a weak, plaintive bleat, or "peent," followed by a few seconds interval, then another and another, until, with almost noiseless flush, a bird sprang into the air to begin a series of ascending circles, each succeeding one becoming smaller until the apex of the flight was accomplished, some two hundred feet above the ground. The return flight was a descending spiral, distinguished by a sprinkling through the twilight of the most delicious notes, sometimes single, often double, but mostly a triple-noted melody, that for clearness and purity has few rivals in the entire range of bird music. During the ascent, the bird was so attentive to its own activities as to pay apparently little attention to the observers, which fact was taken advantage of, by moving our positions to a point as close as possible to where the bird left the ground. On several occasions the performer was within a few feet of us, and could be plainly seen strutting about, fluttering its wings and uttering its peculiar "peent."

The ascents were made at intervals of from one to four or five minutes, and were continued for over an hour, to our great delight. This nuptial, or flight song, of the American Woodcock is one of those rarely beautiful consummations that Nature has reserved for the faithful, and must be seen to be appreciated. "Birds-eye" or "Old Five-Snipe" will pilot any who care to go next Spring.

W. G. FANNING.

HUMMINGBIRDS' NESTS NEAR CAMP.

The pendulous branches of the Red Maple, where they overhang the waters of the Ipswich River, seem favored nesting sites of that feathered atom, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. On the 14th of last May, I paddled down stream from Howe's with a canoe party, and as we prepared to land at the Club Camp, I happened to glance into the branches of the maple opposite Camp. Almost directly over my head and within easy reach was the last year's tiny nest of a Hummingbird. I collected the nest, which, despite last fall's ice storm, was in excellent condition.

The following Fourth of July, which was a wet, disagreeable day, I spent at the camp. During the day I boarded the "Zephyr" for a short row downstream, and, as I pushed off, the bow of the boat caught in the branches of that same maple. The river was greatly swollen from the recent rains of May and June, and some of the drooping twigs were resting in the water. As I released the boat from its entanglement, my eye fell upon another nest, containing two tiny eggs, which was just clear of the water and in imminent danger of being crushed by the bow or borne beneath it. I grasped the branch and examined my find. From the appearance of the nest and eggs it was clear that they had been under water and had been abandoned by the bird. I watched, but saw no bird about, and later in the day collected the nest, which was within three feet of the twig I severed with the other nest in May.

It seems strange, at first thought, that this bird could nest within a hundred feet of the Camp two years in succession without being detected, but anyone who has had experience with the Ruby-throat knows that its minute size and bullet-like flight render it very difficult of observation.

WALTER E. BATES.

AN ACCIDENTAL VISITOR.

A trip to Ipswich Beach, Mass., or more properly Castle Neck, on May 30th, 1922, netted an unusual sight in the ornithological field. Early in the afternoon a large bird,

which appeared to be about two and a half feet in length, flew north-westward along the beach, about twenty yards above the water and perhaps two hundred off shore. I could not name the species, though it had the general appearance of a grebe or loon. The long neck was not held out straight, but was crooked at the lower end. The upper parts of the bird, as far as I could see, were dark but not black, and the entire under parts, including nearly the full circumference of the neck, were a brilliant white. When nearly out of sight, the bird wheeled to the left towards the beach, flew back, and alighted on the water directly off shore from where I stood, and not over one hundred and fifty yards away. I saw no wing patch as the bird came down. Immediately I trained my thirty-five power telescope on the bird. The sun was clear and behind me, and the light and visibility perfect. The back appeared to be an even unspotted and unmottled dark, dull, grayish-brown. A very narrow stripe along the back of the neck was equally dark. The top of the head and nape appeared almost black and connected without break with the rest of the dark upper parts. In side view the stripe on the neck was hardly evident. There was not a trace of black collar, or black or rufous coloration on the sides or front of the neck. The basal part of the lower mandible was a grayish horn color, and not at all like the yellow bill I have seen on the Holboell's Grebe. The rest of the bill was quite dark. It was very clearly a grebe's bill, although I did not attempt to estimate its dimensions. The most striking feature of the bird's appearance, however, was plain to the unaided vision, and I am confident that one familiar with the bird would have identified it at a glance, and that feature was the long, slender, pure white, gracefully-curved neck. At times it looked quite swan-like, but the bird was not half the size of a swan and the bill was unmistakably that of a loon or grebe. The bird sat on the water with considerable elevation to the center of the back, and did not have at all the long, low silhouette of a loon, but rather that of the little Horned Grebe.

I watched the bird fishing for many minutes, then, after

a trip in the dunes to the colony of Night Herons, I again studied it without, discovering anything more.

Of the regular visitors to our shores the Red-throated Loon in winter plumage most nearly resembles the bird I observed. But in my humble opinion no Red-throated Loon ever possessed such a neck as this bird. Furthermore, I have examined in poor light, specimens of this loon at the same relative distance, taking into consideration the aid given by the telescope, and had no difficulty in seeing the *spotted* or mottled back of that species. No specimen of this loon that I have seen has had the pure or brilliant white underparts of the bird at Ipswich, and in no instance has the loon shown such a narrow dark stripe on the back of the neck. In addition, while it is possible for a Red-throated Loon to appear at Ipswich on May 30th in winter plumage, it is, to say the least, improbable that it has ever done so.

Any puzzle, once you know the solution, seems simple, but I did not know the solution while at the beach, nor for some time after leaving it. My main idea seemed to be that the bird *must* be one of our regular visitors in plumage I had never heard of, and certainly never seen, so I carefully searched for a description of one of our loons or a Holboell's Grebe in some plumage that would correspond to what I saw, but the search was fruitless. It was more by accident than design that I turned back a page of Chapman's "Birds of Eastern North America," and quite casually started to read the description he gives of the first bird in the book. "Neck long and slender." I was not so casual in reading the rest. It is not a long description, in fact, it is very short, and it fitted that freak bird at Ipswich as a glove fits the hand.

This is the description of *Æchmophorus occidentalis*, the Western Grebe. I do not know that this bird has ever before been seen on the Atlantic coast of North America; nevertheless, I feel quite properly convinced that it is the bird I saw.

I have spent much time in the West since I became a bird student, over twenty-three years ago, but my observations there were very limited, and I did not see the Western Grebe

in its normal range. The observation at Ipswich is quite unsubstantiated, as I had no companion; my notes made while the bird was in sight are meagre, "Loon? *White* neck and sides, light bill," and I did not secure the specimen. However fully I may be convinced that I have accurately identified an easily recognized bird which I had never before seen, others may be reluctant to consider such an identification as constituting a primal record, and the report of my observation is presented here as a presumably interesting item.

Danvers, Mass.

S. G. EMILIO.



CALENDAR OF
THE ESSEX COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB
OF MASSACHUSETTS.
1921-22.

REGULAR MEETINGS.

September 12, 1921. Regular meeting. General field notes and stories of summer experiences. Twenty-one members present.

October 10, 1921. Regular meeting. A. P. Stubbs, the Club Recorder, went over the bird records July, 1920, through June, 1921. Fifteen members present.

November 14, 1921. Regular meeting. Professor E. S. Morse discussed the multiplicity of generic names and strongly advocated the retention of the original Latin names wherever possible. Nineteen members present.

December 12, 1921. Regular meeting. Annual meeting of the Club. Voted to raise annual dues to three dollars. Officers for 1922 elected. Dr. C. W. Townsend gave an account of his last summer's trip to Nova Scotia. Thirty-three members present.

January 9, 1922. Regular meeting. A. P. Morse exhibited and described our native grasses, including many of importance to birds. Twenty-eight members present.

February 13, 1922. Regular meeting. S. G. Emilio gave an informal talk on various species of Western birds observed during his many years in that part of the United States. Twenty-two members present.

March 13, 1922. Regular meeting. Ludlow Griscom's article on Field Identifications, which appeared in the Janu-

ary, 1922, Auk, read by the Secretary. Eighteen members present.

March 27, 1922. Regular meeting. Laurence B. Fletcher, secretary of the recently formed New England Bird-Banding Association, spoke on the subject of Banding. Twenty-four members present.

April 10, 1922. Regular meeting. T. E. Pennard gave an illustrated talk on a recent trip to Dutch Guiana, and exhibited many skins of birds peculiar to that country. Twenty-five members present.

April 24, 1922. Regular meeting. Voted to hold the Ipswich River Bird Trip on May 20-21. Evening devoted to migration and field notes and general discussions. Eighteen members present.

May 8, 1922. Regular meeting. R. A. Nichols told of his recent trip to Egypt and the Continent. Thirty-one members present.

May 22, 1922. Regular meeting. Members given a half-hour's opportunity to look over the specimens in the Museum's collection. Report of the Ipswich River Bird Trip read by the Secretary and discussed. General subject of field identifications discussed. Twenty-four members present.

June 12, 1922. Regular meeting. Dr. C. W. Townsend gave an illustrated talk on a trip along the Labrador coast. Thirty members present.

August 28, 1922. Special meeting. S. Prentiss Baldwin, of Cleveland, Ohio, described some of his adventures in bird banding. Twenty-nine members present.

September 11, 1922. Regular meeting. A. P. Morse read parts from a Bulletin of the U. S. Department of Agriculture relative to injury done the shell-fish industry by waterfowl. A. P. Stubbs read a paper on Identification of Birds by Song. Seventeen members present.

October 9, 1922. Regular meeting. Field notes and general discussions. Twelve members present.

November 13, 1922. Regular meeting. Laurence B. Fletcher told of what had been accomplished by the New England Bird-Banding Association to date and read many of the more interesting records. He also touched on what had been accomplished by foreign associations interested in the same work. Officers nominated for 1923. R. A. Nichols presented the Club with a number of specimens from the collection of a Mr. Swasey of Newburyport. Twenty-three members present.

December 11, 1922. Regular meeting. Annual meeting of the Club. Officers for 1923 elected. Dr. C. W. Townsend gave an account of last summer's trip along the northern shore of the Gaspé Peninsular, which was illustrated by many lantern slides. Twenty-six members present.



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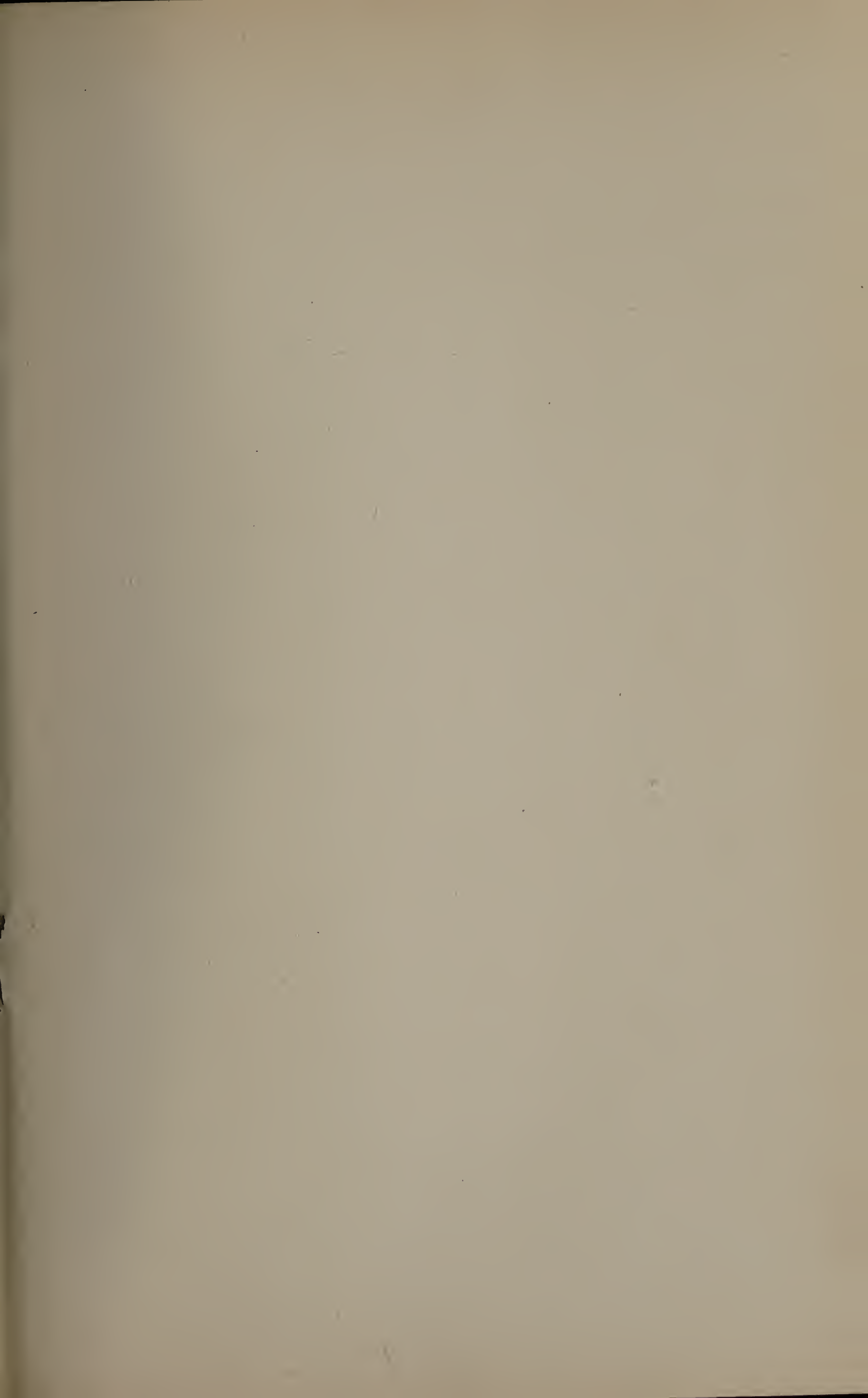
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